

HOUSE BILL NO. 371

INTRODUCED BY B. BENNETT, J. FLEMING, D. HAYMAN, S. MORIGEAU

A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT ALLOWING AN ELECTOR WHO REGISTERED LATE TO RETURN THE BALLOT ON ELECTION DAY TO ANY POLLING PLACE IN THE COUNTY WHERE THE ELECTOR IS REGISTERED TO VOTE; AND AMENDING SECTION 13-2-304, MCA."

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:

Section 1. Section 13-2-304, MCA, is amended to read:

"13-2-304. Late registration -- late changes. (1) Except as provided in subsection (2), the following provisions apply:

(a) An elector may register or change the elector's voter registration information after the close of regular registration as provided in 13-2-301 and vote in the election if the election administrator in the county where the elector resides receives and verifies the elector's voter registration information prior to the close of the polls on election day.

(b) Late registration is closed from noon to 5 p.m. on the day before the election.

(c) Except as provided in 13-2-514(2)(a) and subsection (1)(d) of this section, an elector who registers or changes the elector's voter information pursuant to this section may vote in the election ~~only~~ if the elector obtains the ballot from and returns it to the location designated by the county election administrator. On election day, the ballot may also be returned to any polling place in the county where the elector is registered.

(d) With respect to an elector who registers late pursuant to this section for a school election conducted by a school clerk, the elector may vote in the election only if the elector obtains from the county election administrator a document, in a form prescribed by the secretary of state, verifying the elector's late registration. The elector shall provide the verification document to the school clerk, who shall issue the ballot to the elector and enter the verification document as part of the official register.

(2) If an elector has already been issued a ballot for the election, the elector may change the elector's voter registration information only if the original voted ballot has not been received at the county election office, or received by the school district if the district is administering the election, and if the original ballot that was issued is marked by the issuing county as void in the statewide voter registration system, or by the school district

1 if the district is administering the election, prior to the change."

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